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A CENTURY OF OBSERVATIONS

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By
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A Century of Observations

By EMANUEL FURTH

PREFACE

It must not be supposed by the reader that the author has attained the age which the title suggests, although he is quite willing, in the natural course of events, to become a centenarian.

He has, in a fairly busy life, borne a very scanty resemblance to Caesar, but in nothing more striking than that *he came, he saw and was conquered*. Life for him has had its ups and downs; its happiness and griefs, successes and disappointments; but the lure of it has ever been with him.

Neither is it to be supposed that these observations state anything that is either infallible or original. To repeat, he came without effort of his own; he saw, and with some effort, he has endeavored to jot down, from time to time, the result of his observations—mayhap, for the kindly guidance of others who are still in the noonday of their journey. What are the subjects? Well, anything which he thought worthy of thought and record.

Accustomed as the author is to giving professional advice, he is by no means insistent that the injunctions herein contained are to be followed. The reader has the option always afforded to the dissatisfied client, to obtain a better lawyer.

Times, conditions and circumstances must be taken into account, but under no variation should there, in the opinion of the author, be a lapse of kindly optimism. It will help to solve many a problem which seemed insurmountable.

It is to be hoped that the reader will not regard any of the observations as dictated by an irreverent spirit. Sadly lacking as he is in highly developed religious traits, he has the greatest admiration for piety, with a preference for the unobtrusive sort. He has tried his hand at many things with varying success, but never before has he even attempted to sermonize, and does not do so now, as he is painfully aware of the fact that he dwells in a metaphorical crystal palace.

Without more ado, he dedicates this effort to his beloved profession, wherein he gained so many of the notions and experiences herein expressed.

EMANUEL FURTH.

Philadelphia, October 1, 1919.

I.

Many thousands of books have been written about books, but few have been devoted to Book Agents, who in the years of our adolescence glibly aligned our literary tastes until experience dictated the necessity for disregarding their specious advice. Sooner or later we come to know that the contents of an easily handled, limp leather bound book are often more valuable to us than those of the costliest *de luxe* edition. Time-worn shoes are no more friendly to comfort than our favorite author, especially to one who has the ability to make a real choice.

II.

It is a far cry from Cervantes to Ibanez. The former sounded the death knell of chivalrous knight-errantry; the latter seems to be in a fair way to destroy the tawdry accessories which made for the decadence of Spain. She is to-day on the brink of rejuvenation if she in anywise follows the admonition of the brightest intellect she has produced in the intervening centuries.

III.

The greatest of living historians is an Italian. In presenting to us a picture of Ancient Rome, Gibbon had the disadvantage of not being "to the manor born." Ferrero, in his brilliant version of those stirring days, breathed the balmy atmosphere of his Native Latium. One may hope that when the hectic D'Annunzio shall have declaimed his last word in the Fiume incident, his sane compatriot will record passing contemporaneous events so that we may form a judgment as to whether "Italy Redeemed" is a mere phrase or a reality.

IV.

With rare exceptions, the Novelists depicting life in the Victorian Age now seem stilted and artificial—almost like the high hat and Prince Albert coat—dressy but scarcely practical in this day of harnessed motors prepared to reach the stars.

V.

A sense of humor in the human make-up plays the part attributed to a safety valve in mechanics, but when you can attend many performances of "The Ham and Egg Tree" at timely intervals and laugh as gleefully at the last presentation as when you first made its acquaintance, you have cast an "anchor to the windward" which will make you survive with cheerfulness the stress and storm which life inevitably keeps in store and awards to all of us.

VI.

Any device which will enable you to imprison a bit of sunshine in your heart will give you strength to weather the storms of adversity. The wit of man has been exercised for ages and in countless forms to produce faith which will create the silver lining for the passing cloud. Lucky is the man who has not outlived his childish faith in fairies, the kindly but effective enemies of hobgoblins.

VII.

Golf is a wonderful game; it involves recreation and exercise in equal proportions. It ought to be largely patronized by the legal profession. It inculcates courtesy; it is a perfect romance of alibii; it affords a post-graduate course in the science of numbers; it produces figures which cannot lie. Moreover, its vocabulary of expletives is inexhaustible. Mention ought to be made of the fact that it is a guaranteed cure of the gambling or speculative habit; and now that the *nineteenth hole* is abolished, it bids fair to take the lead in a prohibition referendum.

VIII.

Elijah still holds the record for aerial flights, with Elisha a close second—confirming the prognosis of King Solomon anent novelties.

IX.

To be characterized as a "silk stocking" in the days gone by was equivalent to taking rank among the "Four Hundred." Nowadays, to be without a silk stocking is an unheard-of monstrosity. What a dreary world this would be if the silk worm went on a strike for more mulberry leaves and less hours of labor in perfecting its cocoon! Meantime, more power to the "near silk" industries.

X.

Self-respect is but a form of egotism, but vanity is by no means the most deplorable of human characteristics. It will disappear only with the advent of the Millennium, and until then, it now and then serves a good purpose. In men, if accompanied by a bit of clever capability, it is a saving grace; in women, it serves as a barrier against unwarranted encroachments.

XI.

Gratitude is the highest form of human virtue. Since we are at all times so dependent upon each other, its universal prevalence would serve, as no other sentiment could, to cement the happy relations of

mankind. On the other hand, ingratitude is the basest of vices. It promotes discord and discontent, and for the most part might be said to be a plant of feminine growth. Ever since Creation, woman and the serpent have been associated, so that proverbs of hoary age attest our thoughts in this respect. Gratitude seems to require virile soil for its hearty growth. It may be that when men and women are made entirely equal by force of law, the loss of femininity will be made up by the forceful gain of appreciation.

XII.

We tolerate eccentricity in genius for the benefit of mankind; we submit to the domination of the entirely capable for more or less selfish reasons; we shrug our shoulders at the folly of the fool, but it requires a deal of moral courage to subvert the claims of assured mediocrity. The success obtained by small-souled assurance makes it tempting and attractive; it often ensnares and holds in bondage budding intellect that might well, with perseverance and courage, escape so dismal a fate.

XIII.

Enlightened conversation would serve to largely eliminate health and weather discussions, but this would embarrass those who use these leads to obtain the benefit of a serious talk on style and the domestic servant problem.

To satisfy curiosity is often the open sesame to one notoriously given to minding the business of others; quiet, very quiet, argument is most effective with the stubborn; short, crisp sentences are required for those who are firm; a sigh and a pressure of the hand move the sentimental; coolness saves the hasty and impulsive; courtesy (which costs nothing) is the concrete foundation upon which all may safely stand.

XIV.

Character and reputation are largely and erroneously regarded as synonymous. The former is known to the few; the latter gauged by many. The best of us may be misunderstood, and the worst of us over-estimated. The meek and lowly have much to achieve in the public eye; the frank and outspoken are often regarded as irritants; the hasty as too impulsive, and the braggart is not always envied. After all, integrity of purpose, subject to human imperfections, generally produces the finest standard by which you may be estimated.

XV.

Sarcasm is sometimes the only effective weapon to implant the truth. It may be, it often is, the purveyor of malice, and when addressed without regard to comprehension it is visibly embarrassing. Spoken with kindly intent, accompanied by a merry twinkle of the eye and upward curve of the mouth, it is usually unfailing in promoting amity and understanding.

XVI.

The colored sage asserts that "Friendship don't mean no mo' to some folk dan a license to borrow money," and it is greatly to be feared that sordid considerations form the basis of many alleged friendships. Volumes have been written upon this theme, and still there is no adequate description of the real friend. Persons, circumstances and conditions are so varied that a general definition can scarcely fit all cases nor clear the path of duty. Love of humanity is the broad foundation upon which all friends may stand; sacrifice of sentiment, even of principle, may be justly demanded, so that beneficent happiness may be promoted. Every purely friendly act is like a stone cast in a stream; a generous cast, producing ever-widening circles, carrying the deed far beyond its origin, thus tending to link the multitude in fraternal bonds.

XVII.

Courage is a wonderful thing, especially when balanced by mental, moral and physical qualities. Cowardice causes more suffering to those thus afflicted than to those who are affected by its consequences. Little men are usually full of noisy, physical courage; big men, with real nerve, are rarely aggressive. To exhibit moral courage is the severest test of all. Brutal frankness is by no means an expression of vigorous mentality. Hypocrisy is the most blatant of vices and clearly indicates a lack of every form of courage.

XVIII.

The law of compensation in nature is applicable to humankind, though, as a rule, we fail to notice this all-pervading influence. Nature is ever busy to remedy its own defects, though nowise hurried, for time is not in its reckoning. Impatient man lives a decade in a day and looks for vast changes with each succeeding sunset. Energetic striving, contentment brings a sure reward. The shifting scenes of life are marvels of alternate light and shade, the happy blend of which makes the struggle worth all it costs and enables you to create a surplus which no inheritance tax can deprive the donor from presenting, or the donee from receiving.

XIX.

Nothing is so gratefully appreciated as the ethical action of the *other fellow*; and in this respect, example is often thrown to the winds of shrewdness, there to be ruminated over among the other foibles of mankind. The culture of ethics—Heaven-born sentiment—still waits for successful propagation upon the disintegration of a thousand and one other cults of minor force.

XX.

Umbrellas ought seasonably to be classed with dogs, as *ferac naturac*, and thus eliminate the right of property in both. It would save the commission of many petty crimes, rarely, if ever, punished except by the twinges of an uneasy conscience. When you care to think about it, the umbrella is a manifestation of character in the person who owns or even borrows this seeming necessity. The prudent man is never without one, even during a period of long-continued drought. The careless are always seeking the shelter of a corner store, now converted into a Salvation Army Rest; the fastidious affect marvels; the slovenly exhibit spare ribs; the virile possess the ante-deluge kind, and the delicate make a show of silk and tassels. In the Orient it is an emblem of royalty. On the stage, the farmer-visitor to the city uses the rain protector as a handy weapon, and rescues threatened virtue.

Supplications to St. Swithin to protect us from the melancholy effect of "dry days" in wet weather have thus far proved abortive. Woe betide us when the High Cost of Living reaches the umbrella stage—after that, the deluge!

XXI.

The pajama is fast bowling out the nightgown. We really ought to bolster up our statutes on import and immigration, so that the ideas of the Orient may not be further permitted to taint the notions of the Occident.

XXII.

If you will play the Stock Market, on paper, according to your notions for a given period of time, then make comparisons with that which really took place, it will surprise you to learn how much money and worryment you have been saved and how much more preferable is a quiet, entrenched sector.

XXIII.

In this ingenious mechanical age, it is ever more difficult to determine cause from effect. Are we becoming more inventive because of the progressive training of our mental faculties, or rather out of an

indisposition to labor physically, driving us—like James Watt—to lazily discover the virtue of steam power? It is cheering news to learn that inventive genius is rubbing its Aladdin Lamp in the effort to increase the number of genii who will relieve our overworked maids and matrons from their household cares and duties.

XXIV.

We hear much these days of “heavier than air machines” and those of us who do not fly are a bit puzzled—it seems so obvious that all machines must be heavier than air. Long ago we came to know about men and women “lighter than air,” and it was always a matter of surprise what fantastic figures they cut, though without wings and unable to fly.

XXV.

To be sure, titles in this country are an anachronism, but Carlyle in “Sartor Resartus” has convinced us that without proper clothing there would be no titles, and hence neither kings, princes nor Grandes Dames. So in a democracy, how would you know a colonel from a judge? An Exalted Ruler from the Grand Head Forester—if it were not for titles? It is to avoid unnecessary confusion that we love handles to our names.

XXVI.

Keeping a diary is more or less sporadic. Those of us who have tried it appear to have outlived its usefulness. It is usually an unsatisfactory alibi, and frequently is an accusing witness; besides which, it might be awkward for either biographical or autographical use. Our lives are less interesting to others than we fain would believe.

XXVII.

In thinking of “the gentle art of letter-writing,” we naturally exclude business and technical correspondence. Yellow-backed books of the “perfect letter-writer” type are like dream oracles—they never ring true except by accident. A good letter is not so much dependent upon orthography, grammar or logic as upon the ability to write clearly and frankly as you think. Above all, it ought to be a photographic reproduction of your personal characteristics. It ought not to require your signature for identification.

XXVIII.

It is a blessed privilege—rarely exercised—to be able to see the other side. Those of us who think, form opinions and pronounce judgments ought to be able to look into the other fellow’s back yard—not

overlooking the mess in our own. Human experience is, on the average, pretty much the same, but the effect of it is vastly different, making for good or ill, as we have a sense of proportion and comparison.

XXIX.

Catching trains, as the phrase goes, is expressive of a whole gamut of human psychology. To arrive too early, too late or just in the nick of time, that is the question; and, when you do get there in time, to have the ticket-window blocked by a person who ought to take a course of study in the Bureau of Information, is excusably exasperating. If trains had a propensity for leaving ahead of time, as they have in the matter of being late, many of us would lament the progress of science; others would insist upon having missionaries at local stations instead of the far-off corners of the world where there are no trains.

Railroad schedules (when you can manage to get hold of one) remind you of the Integral Calculus tables which so infernally bothered your college days. It's all very well when you are going on a lark, but when you're bound on a sober business mission or paying a visit to disagreeable relatives, it is not fair to vex the soul and still be obliged to pay for the privilege.

XXX.

The ever-advancing progress in mechanical sciences will some day bring to perfection the "smoke catcher," and the nuisance which arises from production stands fair to be eliminated to the advantage of reproduction. The art of gloom-making is, in these days, enjoying unwonted prosperity. It would require more than ordinary statesmanship to dissipate the pessimistic clouds which hang low over the world's area. It required a flood to right wicked conditions in Scriptural times. Shall civilization fail to restore the rainbow of optimism without a cataclysm? Rain has ever been followed by sunshine, but selfishness must be repressed in order to obtain that clear vision which enables one to see the iridescent coloring growing out of a happy combination of these natural elements in this beautiful world of ours, given to us to make for the betterment of even the lowliest among us. It would seem as if the world was "all right," but we cannot be so sure about the people in it.

XXXI.

The tendency of the Bourgeoisie class to dine in palatial public places, so that they may see and be seen, is unhealthy, both from a social and physical point of view. "Keep the home fires burning" is as essential in peace as in war. The kitchens of our grandmothers have

become the kitchenettes of to-day—now presided over by an autocrat who could give many points of preference to a Hohenzollern and beat him at the game. Ireland and our Suffragettes want "Home Rule," only in different fashion. It would appear as if freedom and independence still required work and sacrifice.

XXXII.

Habits are like straightjackets, not easily doffed, though they require no Keeper. We frequently distinguish between good and bad habits, more often than not, without rhyme or reason. The citizen of the world, as the result of travel and experience, amiably adapts himself to the varying customs of those among whom he happens to be sojourning. Simple habits might well accord with habits of the simple. The best of us gradually come to know that as habits encroach upon us they become a nuisance to others. Wearing them only for self-indulgence is a form of beneficence.

XXXIII.

"Strap Hangers" are, on the average, philosophic, long-suffering creatures. Barely do they have time to do more than cast a wistful eye at the auto whizzing by. To many it seems better than "back to the farm" with its lonesome loneliness which the Flivver has more than relieved. The rush hours of sunrise and sunset are things of the past. Restricted working hours, combined with "time and half time," have contrived to change the peak load. The Grand Army of Labor now rushes past "the whining schoolboy * * * creeping like a snail, unwillingly to school," where he must continue past the age of puberty; and if progression counts for anything and he is emancipated, he may loll a bit longer and still be in time for his work-a-day.

"The darkest hour is just before the dawn," was crystallized long before "Daylight Saving" was made effective by law. Like the "Twilight Zone," sunrise is a land one rarely visits. With curtailed hours of labor, we are not likely to be caught napping.

XXXIV.

To "dwell under your own vine and fig tree," was the ancient idea of the promotion of all the social virtues. In these days, when "Home, Sweet Home" evokes regretful memories, we are naturally remitted to hotels and other public dining places for our daily bread, eaten with thankfulness, and carry away mementoes and souvenirs accounting for the missing "linen and silver" which the avaricious propri-

etor insists upon the innocent and guilty, alike, paying for. Surely these are not the sins which the decalogue had in view. What's the use of any longer cultivating the vine? And figs do not grow on thistles—neither is our land permitted to flow with milk and honey.

XXXV.

Mascots, like soldiers' pets, ought to be tethered in the open—close proximity breeds a herd of infections; but when you contemplate the Jonahs who have beset you in your life, you are tempted to regret that the age of miracles has passed; you may even deplore the decadence of the whaling industry on your fishing trips.

XXXVI.

The amount of injustice done by some men to their heirs is often provoking even to bystanders. Many a dollar injudiciously spent might, with the slightest forethought, be readily saved for post-mortem purposes. In the organization of new societies to promote the moral uplift this thought has been religiously neglected.

XXXVII.

It is far from beneficial to keep a frisky horse in the stable—so with Sunday Athletic Sports—whenever they are legalized they will be seemly.

We are all apt to regard moral, social, religious and political reformers as more or less pestiferous. Hence we shall all be happy and contented when this nagging race will have perished from the face of God's green earth, making the path of duty lie clear and unobstructed to our view.

XXXVIII.

Funerals are as often comic as they are tragic. Much depends upon the religious service or the absence of it; the attitude of the chief mourners and the number of those who really want to go to the place of interment for the sake of the departed, or whether the attendance is for the sake of a pleasant ride on a pleasant day, or, as sometimes happens, to take advantage of the opportunity to look after a lonely grave or a family mausoleum. Since it became fashionable to "Please omit flowers," the florist has been busier than ever, and now and then the truth regarding the deceased is fearlessly uttered. To so live as to leave a happy memory, grateful survivors of those who have known and loved the departed, is more than equivalent to the finest obsequies ever held.

XXXIX.

It is a thousand pities that one may not as readily change racial marks as we can our names. It is difficult to disguise alien ancestry. To be Black, Yellow or Semitic, etc., is to encounter the unearned increment of prejudice, the growth of more generations than is stated by the Mosaic Dispensation to be the Statute of Limitations for the descendants of those who do not love the Lord.

XL.

Hicrsolyma Est Perdita (Jerusalem is destroyed) was the origin of the Hep! Hep! of the fierce mobs which sought for centuries to destroy the Sons of Jacob from the face of the earth. How vain were their efforts, how false was their rallying cry, is attested by the capture of the Holy City from the Turks by the English under Allenby, who proclaimed and enforced civil and religious liberty and preserved inviolate the sanctuaries and institutions of the motley array of inhabitants. The Mosque, the Church and the Synagogue fared alike; the quarrels of the religious fanatics of every denomination were silenced; law and order were established in this land of promise, restored as the heritage of all humanity.

XLI.

We exist in an era of *drives*. It began with William Hohenzollern in an advance upon Belgium. Heaven alone knows when it will end. The drivers are continuously recruited from the driven. The *ignis fatuus* of Society aspiration is the lure which at times seems to dim the light of real charity.

Federal and State governments with their multitudinous bureaus and regulations, inspections and reports are generously assisted by vacations, strikes and lock-outs.

The world is busy swapping horses crossing the stream; the constant crack of the whip forces us perilously near the surging current and diverts us from the safe landing.

XLII.

One can imagine no more condign punishment than to be obliged to "take in" the alleged Comic Section of the newspapers. At times it seems as if the artist (?) as well as the publisher ought to be charged with a deliberate attempt to desecrate the Sabbath, not to speak of the disturbance of mental balance occasioned on the lesser days.

XLIII.

Forensic eloquence is fast losing its charm. Stump-speaking as once we knew it is being relegated to the limbo of the past. All things make for the written and printed word, and even now the boasted power of the press is succumbing to the moving picture. Leading and misleading film artists and film *poseurs* are a bit popular and better known than Hearst, Northcliffe or Munsey.

Fight fans, Movie fans and Baseball fans are far more closely related than would appear to the casual observer. They have many traits in common, and many common traits. Differences of opinion must necessarily arise amidst their respective gatherings, only to be eventually harmonized, though the methods differ. They all achieve a language of their own, failing to understand which instantly fixes your status as a rank outsider. One wonders what the newspapers would do without them. As a class, they are great specialty readers; they know just where to find authentic news concerning their favorite diversion—all other topics are banished. Inability to attend the exhibitions to which they are attached is regarded as nothing short of a calamity. Their lives are spaced a thousand miles, according to their notions, from mere humdrum existence.

XLIV.

The Muses emerged from Grecian mythology without a cootie. In these days the parasitical influence of the Manager, the Booking Agent and whatnot has a debasing effect upon art. The artist and the public, alike, suffer from the predatory mercenary instincts of the purveyors. Now and then, temperament is the avenging Nemesis, and we smile at the worry and discomfort it causes, even though we are obliged to share it.

By the way, which Muse has the film appropriated for its patron saint?

XLV.

Doctrinal religion has evolved more superstition than all other human forces combined. Ordained ceremonials have bent the knee and beclouded the mind of man ever since Creation. No one can complain that wide choice of mode and form of worship is denied. For all that, fortune-telling flourishes to-day as it did in the days of Saul. Oracles and soothsayers are still plentiful; spiritual leaders, just as divinely ordained as kings and emperors, are rampant and are ever seeking to establish the latest triumph of one superstition over another.

XLVI.

The Organic Law of the United States provides that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust." Likewise, that "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion." These sentiments are more or less forcefully stated in the Constitutions of several States. Perhaps, in no other country have these ideas of Jefferson been so ingrained in the body-politic. It would seem as if it were intended that the Church should in no respect dominate or influence political action. It would also seem to indicate that if the Church were fully occupied with ministering to the spiritual needs of its disciples, there would be no temptation to meddle in civil affairs. The history of the past twenty centuries demonstrates that the Church has been a retarding force.

The enlightening dawn of a new era came with the French Revolution and our Federal Constitution. Shall we look backward and thus gather new strength to go forward? Or shall we, by indirect legislation, erect signposts at the doors of our churches to remind the masses that there, and there alone, are life- and soul-saving stations? It is greatly to be feared that under such impulsion, the ranks of the faithful will not be materially strengthened. Faith must come from within, and even the most fastidious will have no chance to complain of paucity of choice.

XLVII.

The fellow who asks for a lower berth in a sleeping-car and, perforce of necessity, takes an upper, with the smiling remark, "There's more air up there anyhow," may not be in line to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, but he will not have half the trouble the camel had in trying to pass through the eye of a needle.

"At night," says the old proverb, "all cows are black," and this was remarked long before Pullman Sleepers were invented. Have you ever had occasion to leave your berth, after the "lights were dim and low," and endeavored to return, with a vague idea that you must be in the wrong car, or perhaps that you cannot just recall your number, and the porter has fallen from the train or is asleep? Well, it's the same kind of feeling you had when you bought a ticket in the Louisiana Lottery, in the good old Beauregard days—only the prospect of drawing the capital prize seemed far brighter in the latter than in the former contingency.

XLVIII.

"Ignorance of the law" excuses no one—but a judge, a lawyer or a member of the bar.

XLIX.

It is written that "In a multitude of counselors there is safety," and without attempting to question this hoary maxim, experience would seem to justify the added thought that a counselor in time might, in the aftermath, save nine. Free legal advice as presented in the columns of newspapers and periodicals, even "Every Man His Own Lawyer," is usually worth less than the cost of these mediums, and frequently proves most costly.

The high privilege of a Gentleman Learned in the Law is to endeavor to adjust disputes and lend a willing ear to compromises. Courts of Justice ought to be the final resort of those whom fierce litigiousness alone will satisfy, or where it is necessary to have an authoritative decree, required by the policy of the State or the establishing of a necessary precedent.

L.

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again," and now and then and again, from the witness-stand.

Hectoring a witness is by no means an entirely safe method to obtain favorable testimony. Due allowance is not always made for the superiority of intellect exhibited by the witness as compared with examining Counsel. Direct truth, for obvious reasons, seldom emanates from the witness-stand; comparisons and deductions usually establish facts. Courtesy to an adverse witness is a disarming process. A close student of human nature can usually master the mind of the most refractory, but on Judgment Day, Othello's occupation will be gone, and lawyers will again attest the fact that they make the most unreliable witnesses.

LI.

The term "vested rights" has lost its one-time sacred significance. One short decade has destroyed the precedents of centuries. The speed traveled by notions of public right as compared with private ownership, would seem to lead us back to Scriptural days, with its Sabbatic Year. One must, of course, make allowance for the time it would take to move one's habitation and garage to those of his distant neighbor. Good roads and ever-speedier motor cars might tend to simplify the problem, and septennial tenure of office might tempt legislative enactment.

LII.

In the impending social revolution there will be no room for the legal profession. Like an echo from the past comes the merry quip of Jack Cade's Rebellion, "Let's kill all the lawyers."

If you have a bright, ambitious son, do not seek to have him become a lawyer—rather equip him with a legal education, so that he may acquire the technique of the profession; then may his brawny arm flourish an axe or other useful tool, taking pains to conceal the sheepskin diploma with a leathern apron, so that no longer shall "parchment, being scribbled o'er . . . undo a man"; have him join the ranks of organized labor, and tell the Walking Delegate or Executive Head how to formulate demands, and soon he will possess the inheritance which the Lord promises to the highly gifted.

LIII.

Law libraries are, for the most part, mausoleums of the wit of Bench and Bar. Tombs are rifled for the promotion of unholy causes. Sophistry and casuistry have played havoc with the rights of man. Nero is said to have played an accompaniment to the destruction of Rome. Some of us are whistling for another Justinian to frame a legal code in accord with the spirit of the age. Meantime, we are a bit careless about the further preservation of hoary precedents and groaning book shelves.

LIV.

Why longer urge the elimination of *obey* in the marriage ceremony? As long as it remains, it is a noble remnant of a virile past. If the proposed amendment prevails, why not, while tinkering, place the obligation where it now rightly belongs and force timid man to do that which is his fore-ordained doom. It will also be worth considering whether it is necessary to change names; and if found so to be, why should the bride be charged with this ignominious badge of servitude? Marriages beyond our national frontiers will have significance unless it is desired that matrimony shall be a *dry* affair from its initial stage.

LV.

Though we walk through the valley of widowers, yet we fear no evil, for the sunshine of the widow—without which there can be no shadow—is ever with us.

LVI.

No one can truthfully deny but that giant strides have been made in the last quarter of a century in the relations of employer and employe,

favoring the man and limiting the asserted powers of the master. The only question that remains is, whether progress has not been a bit too rapid, so that entire subversion of the social fabric may be at hand without a workable substitute in sight? It takes a lot of time to remedy the destructive force of an earthquake or a cyclone. The reconstruction period involves the creation of new social phases, inevitably based upon eternal principles of right and wrong, when industry will not be confounded with agitation and energy leveled by the slothful.

LVII.

We have come to know that the many processes incident to the manufacture of ammunition and other implements of war is a degenerating influence. The difference between the man who makes the hand-grenade and the soldier who carries it "Over the Top" in the face of the enemy, is no disadvantage to the latter, and turned out to be a distinct detriment to the former. This inequality is not only produced by the respective rates of pay and hours of service, but also by the lack of harmony in sentiment evolved.

LVIII.

Until it receives a severe jolt, the value of a dollar will continue to decrease. The rising percentage of the cost of labor may be checked by the Income Tax when all those who are earning their living, as distinguished from employers, will acquire the dignity of becoming taxpayers. If the masses achieve this result—and we are fast approaching it—taxation and representation will go hand in hand.

LIX.

The right, liabilities and duties of citizens, as well as many divisions of the Government, in the event of dispute, must be submitted to compulsory arbitrations by Courts of Justice. Disagreements between employe and employer are referred to the tender mercies of Conciliation Commissions, in an atmosphere of strikes and lockouts, largely sustained by violence on the one hand and arbitrary action on the other. The nation which first enforces working conditions governed by decrees based upon impartial justice will be the saviour of mankind, and will be an admirable adjunct to the "League of Nations," thus eliminating armies, navies, walking delegates and predatory capital at one fell swoop.

LX.

Efficiency has come to be a recognized science, depending for its success upon the unfettered, justly rewarded worker. Mere statements of principles of economic saving and advancing progress will not suffice

—there must be an inspired man behind the gun, enlisted for the sake of the Cause, in love with his work and assured of recognition. The Huns and Vandals of industry are vigilant enemies; they must be smoked out of the trenches before the banner of increased and increasing production can be hung upon the outer walls of Labor's citadel.

Even co-operative trading and profit sharing require a manager and accountant. Very few animals can be taught to work automatically—the human being never. Cash registers require a *change* department, and you do hear of comptometer girls. The Patent Office is filled with devices to escape the trammels of existence, but perpetual motion has thus far eluded our ingenuity.

LXI.

Vacation time grows in extent and apparent necessity as the work-day becomes less strenuous. In the "Good Old Summer Time" of the long ago, it varied from a day to a week; now there is no limit, either as to time or season. Progressive decrease in working hours and days will soon relieve Legislatures from decreeing legal holidays—every day will be a holiday. The popularity of the old song, "Everybody Works But Father," will then be but a fleeting memory—perhaps then, even fathers will cease to be fashionable.

LXII.

"Preparedness" has lost its charm. "Profiteering" has usurped its place. It is assumed that Capital is responsible. If so, Labor is a handy accomplice. At least, there is some semblance of law to curb the monopolistic tendencies of the former; there is express exemption for the latter. It brings forcibly into the limelight the lack of courage of our public officials, not the least of the evils which assail a democracy. The vicious circle is daily narrowing, awaiting the leader whose slogan will be "A plague upon both your Houses." Equality before the law must be the inevitable result.

LXIII.

The theory which would place public utilities under Government control and ownership would be greatly helped—and God knows it needs help—if those who were charged with administrative duties, from the humblest clerk to the highest paid official, were imbued with altruistic notions. After all, these workers are human beings, taken from the mass who are on the outside and pay the bills. The other fellow

is on the inside and thinks he is an absolute necessity to the public, who are ever striving to get within the confines of the magic circle.

LXIV.

Henry George first located and defined the long existing "unearned increment." Prior to his discovery and ever since the Nation, the State, the City and all the inhabitants thereof, have pursued this will-o'-the-wisp with varying success.

Caught, trained and put into your bank account, the unearned increment is most charming; to see another fellow corral it is disgusting. Penalized into the coffers of the Community, we are enabled to scoff and jeer and tightly button up our own trousers' pockets.

LXV.

Many thousands of foreigners originally intending to permanently settle in this Country have inaugurated an exodus to their native homes. A continuance of this tide of travel bodes ill for economic conditions, already in woeful shape. The reasons given for this serious departure range from prohibition to high-cost-of-living. Here we face an additional, altogether abnormal, problem. It is alleged that these foreigners will never become Americanized. So, it might have been thought of the party landing from the Mayflower and the millions who have since journeyed to these shores, for the most part to seek the benefits flowing from life in a young and vigorous Democracy. Now that we have grown a bit older, we have shed much of our boasted freedom and equality. A strong federal government, heightened by the aid of an odious intrenched bureaucracy; an increasing multiplicity of laws and regulations perforce, induces the thought that autocracy on the other side of the Atlantic being exterminated, personal freedom is in the ascendancy, and living conditions there will compare most favorably with the small-necked tyranny of the minority here. The fires which stirred the contents of the "Melting Pot" and heretofore produced a boasted fusion now appear to be smoldering. We must see that new courage is injected into "Old Boreas."

LXVI.

It would require more than a Presidential Message to Congress to reproduce a "Marriage Feast at Cana" in this peace-ridden country of ours. "War-time prohibition" to the accompaniment of "trading with the enemy" would fairly shake with laughter the fat sides of the most respectable of Roman Augers.

LXVII.

Pro-German propaganda and the Brewers' Fund have achieved mighty and unexpected results, but where did the sinews of war come from to combat the treason mongers who sought ostensibly to preserve our personal liberties? We sit and slowly sip our cola-coca, lost in thought, bankrupt in mind, and ultimately drain our cup of humiliation.

LXVIII.

The sunny Southland, with States' Rights banners flung to the lazy breeze, reluctantly dips its colors to the half-mast. Acceptance of the results of the Civil War, with a myriad of evasions, has driven it into the lap of Prohibition and Federal enforcement, which bids fair to rouse again the sentiments for which their statesmen plead and their best citizens fought and suffered and died.

LXIX.

The unrest in the Balkans, the unruly attitude of the smaller nations whom we seek to accord autonomy, seems to beget slight sympathy in the American public. The races most intimately concerned are very foreign to us, and we have little patience with their views. It is asserted that a majority of our people favoring Prohibition seek to make world-wide application of their doctrines—why not make a beginning on the other side with those whom we know and care for the least? The only risk would be the betterment of conditions for alien races, and the de-alcoholization of their policies. It is not likely that these countries will refuse to *wise* the passports of such "dry" missionaries we would be glad to send them.

LXX.

"Keep the taverns closed" will soon cease—perhaps has already ceased—to be the favorite slogan of those who have hitherto regarded it as the surest preventive of epidemics, race riots, car strikes, mine lockouts, auto accidents, cold, sober daylight hold-ups, and other like evils.

LXXI.

"Heatless," "Lightless," "Meatless" days deserve a bit of compensation, and we shall have many "Drinkless" days in which to think it all over.

LXXII.

It is an old-time query, "Where do the flies come from?" "Where do the pins go to?" So now, "drinking songs" will vanish from literature. Another generation will know neither Pharoah nor Israel, and

the curiously wrought goblets and flagons will adorn the curio cabinet. Flasks will be, when found, presumptive evidence of guilt; soothing syrup will be administered in cocktail glasses; the glass with a stem will not longer be an iridescent inspiration; the growler-can will be an emblem of peace; the mug will be hunted from its lair and High-balls will be confined to the "World's Baseball Series." We confidently predict and impatiently await a "Dry Edition of Holy Scriptures."

LXXIII.

The Recording Angel must, for centuries, have had a busy time of it in noting the conduct of those who have constructed or are obliged to travel over "bad roads." Ruts, detours, the absence of sign posts are, alike, prolific of profanity. Wayside Inns with entertainment for the traveler were as welcome as an oasis in a desert, and the revival was attended with joy by all concerned. Just when they seemed re-established came the withering "dry" blast, which must inevitably result in eliminating even the inns where General Washington stopped to take a drink. Great care must now be exercised in crossing State lines, over the best of roads, with liquid refreshment in the exhilarator of your auto; but the net result has already been noted in less speed, absence of recklessness and avoidance of accident. It may well be that in the course of another century the Heavenly record shop, wherein are duly chronicled "Sins of the Road"—at least so far as it affects this Country—may be closed. If Americans are happy, why should we concern ourselves about foreigners continuing on the road to destruction?

LXXIV.

We all long for the day to come when income taxes will cease to bother our consciences and the "dry taxes" for State and municipal purposes are increased high enough—as surely they will be—to dampen the ardor of the "Wets" and thus raze the moral standard of the "Drys."

LXXV.

Who shall be privileged to assert that the lazy, the vicious and improvident men and women who are helped in their downward career by intemperance and other evil habits will be cured by Constitutional enactment?

Prior to enforced prohibition this class formed but a small percentage of the entire community, and if the majority, particularly the saintly portion thereof, were to expend the same amount of money, zeal, enthusiasm and oratory they devote to restrictive legislation to

the attempt to reclaim the fallen, the result would largely free them from the burden which they so zealously assume.

LXXVI.

When the ladies have control of the Government in the near future—as now seems reasonably certain—national conventions will formulate planks on the “High Cost of Living,” which will have a value far beyond anything mere man has as yet suggested. Varying styles of garments, with every shift of a shiftless wind, will be tabooed. Laces, frills and furbelows will be accorded exclusive use at official receptions, the number of which will be mightily reduced. Furs will only be permitted in midwinter; domestic servants will be given half holidays only on the days when Primary and General elections are held, and on all other occasions men will be thoroughly drilled in household duties, and footwear will be regulated as to size, color and design, by statute. Powder puffs will be relegated to “first aid” kits and the prevailing nonsense about one woman being permitted to look better than another will be wholly exterminated.

LXXVII.

Charity runs a losing race with patriotism in the number of sins which it conveniently covers. A state of war is its great opportunity, but it flourishes as well in time of peace, though not so obtrusively. Many a citizen has been unexpectedly elected to high office by specious appeals to the Flag, though at heart he is an unprincipled slacker. Our latest hope for betterment in this respect lies in the “fair sex,” who will likely avail themselves of other political vestments.

LXXVIII.

The well-groomed man and the stylish woman would not last long together in a dovecot. Vanity still continues to be the thing which makes life worth living. Costume jealousy is rampant and increases in the inverse ratio as toggerly grows more scanty.

LXXIX.

The poor downtrodden Farmer! “Far from the madding crowd,” he lives free from the taint of guile which is ever infecting the urbanite.

Tilling the soil, no longer required to save daylight, his thrifty Soul is engaged with problems of costly import to the rest of us. He claims and acquires exemption from legislation on economic subjects. Like Newton, he watches the apple as it falls, wraps it carefully in tissue paper, trundles it to market, with no special theory of gravitation—all other mortals stand by and watch him grow.

LXXX.

Federalization is on the way to giving the Domestic Relations' Court a prominence which its warmest advocates failed to predict. Soon it will be the last resort of the "States' Rights" patriot.

LXXXI.

It is curious to observe of the two great political parties in this Country that they are opposed to the increase of Federal power as they happen to be in the opposition. The seeds of destruction, however, are planted in the usual rotation in office, illustrating the maxim—"Last year's luxuries are this year's necessities."

LXXXII.

In this democracy of ours there is no truer saying than that "Politics make strange bed fellows." This miscegenation more often than not produces fantastic misbegotten shapes, having little regard for the public weal. The prevalent thought seems to be that there is as little honesty to be hoped for in politicians as in plumbers or lawyers. It is the wise politician who does not adhere selfishly to party principles. He is an exception; the balance always lurk in the ambushade of possible change.

LXXXIII.

The executives of metropolitan cities are accustomed to finding the office a political graveyard. Proximity to the voter does not "lend enchantment to the view." A grim determination to cleanse the Augean stable is never prolific of success. Extempore talk of policies is as futile as a gas attack with notice to the enemy. Creating with patronage a partisan, political backing is as dangerous as standing on the brink of Niagara and allowing its fascinating influence to overpower your normal thought of "Safety First." In fact, the recipe for the making of a Mayor who will merge triumphant to higher place and greater regard, is still in the brewing—one might almost be tempted to say—in the Witch's cauldron, so mysterious and powerful must be the concoction.

LXXXIV.

Of all the evils inflicted upon the body politic, the demagogue is the most atrocious. Self-seeking for self-interest, he is filled with sordid ability to influence the masses to their detriment—always for destructive, never for constructive, purposes. In a way he is selling something which costs him nothing to produce, for the highest price which his glib tongue and false pretense can induce the community to pay. Martyrdom usually overtakes those who denounce him, and when

truth finally prevails, he rarely receives the punishment which he so richly deserves. Occasionally he becomes a convert of his own views, and then he is doubly dangerous.

LXXXV.

In a representative government the initiative and referendum are a confession of weakness which by no means reaches the primary defect of real lack of choice. The same "boss" whom you allow to choose your Representative is more than likely to control the vote of the people on measures of statecraft. Political bravery is sadly lacking—political brigandage is obnoxiously prevalent. Subserviency is the strongest recommendation for political preferment. Organization, which costs money and effort, usually controlled by scheming minds, is the bane of the elector, who, occasionally struggles vainly against this seemingly brute force, only to be overcome by the helplessness of the situation. A patriotic boss is as rare as an oasis in a desert.

A considerable percentage of those who declaim the loudest against the ills of government, fail to exercise the right of Suffrage. Every citizen ought to be compelled to vote unless prevented by unavoidable occurrence. It would lead to a more general scrutiny of the merits of candidates, and greatly lessen the opportunities of political organizations in herding electors for indiscriminate balloting for men and measures of which the mass is profoundly ignorant.

LXXXVI.

Civic courage is fast waning, largely due to the methods of metropolitan journals in their treatment of public matters having a political trend. The policy of the paper, largely subservient to the views of the owner, controls the circulation as well as the editorial departments, both of which are engaged in good-natured rivalry to expand the output.

Abuse of public officials is so continuous as to have deadened the effect upon readers. Coloring news to coincide with policy finds pliant acceptance by reporters, with encouraging results in the inner sanctum. One may be allowed to wonder what would be the effect of an impartial appraisal of the acts of public officials—bestowing praise whenever deserved, criticizing in a just spirit when required, and treating fairly, unawed by public clamor, the acts of public utility corporations. Selling to-morrow's paper today is merely the proverbial straw.

LXXXVII.

The autocracy of the proletariat, now designated "Bolshevism," is by no means the novelty which its most recent baptism would seem

to indicate. Tried by many races in various climes, it has always proved an ultimate failure, with a mass of wreckage in its wake and a return to sane equality as its sequel. Many and devious are the methods by which it has sought to achieve a lodgment in this country, but as yet without success. The number and power of our middle class is the bulwark upon which the radical, the desperate, the vicious and the theorist will hurl themselves in vain. In this contest organized labor, with extreme and unconscionable demands, may yet find its graveyard.

LXXXVIII.

The Red Flag is the symbol of anarchy; the color of "grape juice," diplomacy is akin. Both are claimed to be public evils. The former, as yet, appeals to a limited number, while the latter has been so effective that it has visibly increased the followers of the former, with vanishing beneficial results.

LXXXIX.

Vox populi—vox Dei might prove true in a religious world filled with sanctified inhabitants. The Holy Scriptures attest the fact that the trials of the rulers of a theocracy were many and vexatious, and ultimately led to destruction. In this materialistic age the masses seem to fear neither "God, man or the Devil." Up and down our fair land are howling dervishes seeking whom they may lead astray, with the promise of a libertine's license. The Scylla of Bolshevism facing the Charybdis of arrogant, brutal workers, leaves a mighty narrow way for the voice of God to penetrate the consciousness of His people.

XC.

There are so many "Cradles of Liberty" extant that one may express surprise that the nations are not, long ago, in possession of perfect freedom. In this comparatively new Country of ours, in addition to Philadelphia, we have the claims of Boston and Mecklenburg to consider. After all, the little wicker basket containing the infant Moses, floating down the Nile, was a sort of harbinger.

XCI.

Prior to the "World War" it was esteemed by the thoughtful that, owing to the progress made in the methods of transportation, National boundaries and frontiers were fast being eliminated and we were on the high road to internationalism. The Treaty of Versailles, with its recognition of the rights of small nations, seems to have exceptionally stranded the Semite and the Celt. Once again these dissimilar races

find themselves united by a common misery. Oh! for the valorous Gideon's band or the victorious leadership of Brian Boru.

XCII.

Breach of faith is still among the definitions accorded to treason, although it is not presently regarded legally as a crime against the State. If strikes by public officials and employes and the operators of necessary public utility corporations are permitted to continue and increase, as now seems likely, it must soon result in extending the legal significance of the term so that we may escape anarchy. The base of the pyramid, upon which rests social order and security, must not be permitted to be wrenched from its foundation by loading the apex until the entire structure totters to ultimate fall.

XCIII.

We have grown so accustomed to taking a survey of the world's doings at the breakfast table and to incessant confirmation on every conceivable topic in periodicals and magazines, that one may well ponder over the effect of a sudden stoppage of such publications. Life would indeed be dreary, and under such conditions likely to be panicky. Every idle rumor would be exaggerated, only to be met by ignorance of facts. One may well shudder to contemplate the possibilities. It would not be beyond the ken of radicals and anarchists to prevent the disseminations of news and authentic information. Until the restoration of normal conditions it will be the duty of sturdy citizenship to cry out "Watchman, what of the hour?" with a grim determination to guide and guard our institutions in order to preserve the latest hope of mankind.

XCIV.

The kind of assurance which "makes doubly sure" is as potential as insurance fathered by the State. Formerly it was the lightning-rod man who symbolized the thought; now it is the publicity agent who makes and unmakes the "Who's Who," and when you tell him "What's What" satisfactorily, holds the ladder for you while you climb to fame and fortune. He is the envy of the Walking Delegate.

If our self-appraisal of service became its real market value, it would doubtless be open to the objection of "too much water." Corporations are composed of people with sinister ideas of value. To pay for "good-will" seems to the purchaser a species of imposition, but of course much depends upon the interested point of view. In the coming

socialized Utopia, there will be neither barter nor sale; distribution will wait upon exchange, and the ancient admonition to "seize life energetically," will have lost its charm.

XCV.

Arrogant dogmatism is never attractive except to single-track minds. In its presence one is tempted to agree with that iconoclast, Samuel Butler, when he declares that "Hard and Fast lines ever cut the fingers of those who draw them."

XCVI.

The stories told of Samson and Absalom well illustrate the truth of the old saw "What is one man's meat is another man's poison." The fate which ultimately befell these Scriptural characters should be a solemn warning to all long-haired agitators.

Crusades have ever been failures, although the historic influence of those first attempted has been by no means contemptible. Under its borrowed plumage, vast as well as petty schemes have been launched. If success had attended a tithe of them, angels would no longer have been confined to the sterner sex. The world would be one vast camp of crowns, harps and spotless robes, the then ordinary vestments of all mankind. Revivalists have come and gone, leaving faint traces upon the sands of time.

XCVII.

The phrase, "Tell your troubles to the policeman" has more virtue in it than would appear at first glance. Not that anyone cares offhand to trouble a policeman. Keeping your thoughts to yourself is not always wise; having an intimate friend or confidant serves many a timely purpose.

Buffers and shock absorbers add to duration, mileage and comfort. We are far more wonderfully built than the most delicate machine. Friendly counsel depends largely upon frank revelation; it must have been the milk upon which Methuselah fed.

XCVIII.

Respect for age is a vanishing quantity, and with it the external marks of advancing years are disappearing. Dress, modification of habits and cleaner living, have all contributed to the change, and yet there is probably nothing more agreeable to those who are nearing life's ultimate goal than the little attentions of youth, which indicate that usefulness has not been outlived.

XCIX.

Oh, thou youth, ever fair and insidious to those who dwell in the twilight zone of allotted age! We summon thee to the bar of reason; we arraign, indict and acquit thee, with unfailing regularity; thy faults and follies forgotten and forgiven. It warms the cockles of our heart to restore thee to supreme place in our innermost thoughts.

C.

When the pearly gates swing ajar at sound of the last trump, the motley procession entering will comprise every race and color. Aye! even the adherents of all creeds—the lowly sparrow will chirp and hop along; Radicals and Conservatives will jostle with each other for place, carrying emblazoned banners with neither epigram nor aphorism concerning rights or wrongs, but all inscribed with the motto “*Hail to our restored heritage of Fraternity.*”

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